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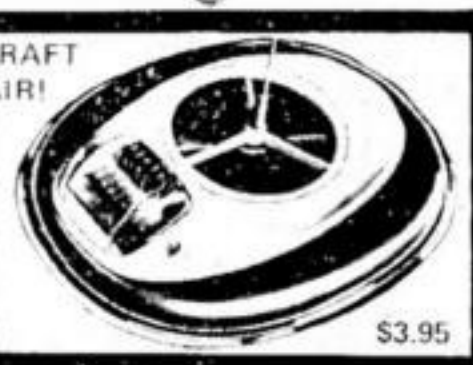

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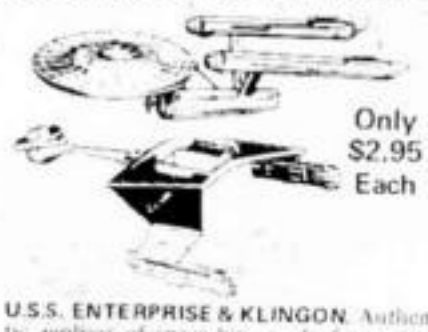

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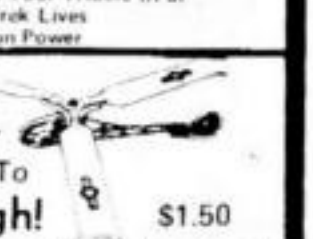

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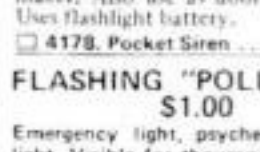

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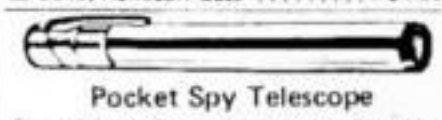

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WRITTEN & DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY / INKS & LETTERING BY D. BRUCE BERRY / COLORING BY JANICE COHEN

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UGH!

CAPTAIN AMERICA LIVES UP TO THE LEGEND CREATED BY HIS **COUNTLESS** EXPLOITS, AND SOON THE MERCENARIES FIND THEMSELVES OUTMATCHED BY A **MASTER** OF COMBAT!!

SORRY, FELLA, BUT THAT **WON'T** STOP ME

MY **NEXT** SHOT WILL GET YOUR LEG!

WA-AM!

BAD THINKING, SOLDIER! IT'S MY **HANDS** YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH! I'M GOING TO **PUNCH YOU OUT!**

LOW-BRED DOG! YOU'LL SOON LEARN YOUR PLACE IN THE **NEW** SOCIETY!

I-I **ORDER** YOU..... TO....TO....

CANCEL THAT ORDER, BUB!

KRASH!!

AND **THAT'S** MY ANSWER TO THE ARROGANT CAUSE YOU SERVE! IT'LL **NEVER** SUCCEED HERE!

ASK ANY **NAZI** WHO LIVES IN THE **RUINS** OF HIS PAST!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE **VOICE** OF THE FALCON SHOUTS A WARNING.

LOOK **BEHIND** YOU, CAP! IT'S WORTH YOUR **SKULL!**

THANKS, FALCON! I JUST **CAN'T** MAKE THESE GUYS SEE THINGS **OUR** WAY!

YOU'VE BEEN POUNDING 'EM ON THE **WRONG END!** I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S **REALLY** DONE!

HEY!

SLAM!

ANY **STARS** YOU SEE RIGHT NOW, SOLDIER.... ARE **"ALL-AMERICAN!"**

PUT HIM DOWN, FALCON! WE'VE GOT TO **EXPLORE** THIS PLACE WHILE WE'VE GOT A BREATHER.

LET'S VISIT THAT ROOM WHERE THEY WHEEL IN **MEN** AND WHEEL OUT **MONSTERS.**

NOT MONSTERS, FALCON, BUT CREATURES **DEPRIVED** OF RIGHTS AND REASON!

WHEN CAP AND THE FALCON REACH THEIR **OBJECTIVE...**

SEEMS LIKE THE "DEPRIVING" IS **STILL** GOING ON!

WE'LL PUT A **STOP** TO IT!

WHO ARE THESE **FOOLS** !!??

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THIS MAN? I WANT HIM *RELEASED!* DO YOU HEAR?!

WHAT YOU ASK IS *IMPOSSIBLE! HE NO LONGER FITS INTO YOUR SOCIETY!*

HE'S RECEIVED A *FULL* COURSE OF STIMULATING SHOCKS TO HIS GLANDS. THEY WILL ACTIVATE WITH *WILD* EFFECT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S BEGINNING TO CHANGE .....*RAPIDLY.*

WHEN THE CHANGE IS OVER, HE WILL HAVE A *WEAK* MIND AND A *STRONG* BACK.....WHICH WILL ENABLE HIM TO LABOR *LONG* AND *HARD* FOR THE NEW SOCIETY.

WHY, *YOU.....!*

HE WILL ASK FOR *NOTHING*, AND DO *EVERYTHING* FOR THE RULING ELITE!.....AND, IN TURN, HE WILL RECEIVE CARE, FOOD AND LODGING. THE *PERFECT* ARRANGEMENT!

FOR AN *ANIMAL*, YOU MEAN! AN ANIMAL WHO MUST CARRY THE BURDEN FOR AN ELITE OF *PARASITES!*

THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE *ALWAYS* BEEN BORN TO BE SERVED! WE USED TO CALL THEM THE *ARISTOCRACY!*

SO YOU'RE GOING TO BRING IT ALL BACK. THE *MASTERS* AND.....

DON'T BE DRAMATIC, FALCON! THERE'LL BE NO SLAVES.....MERELY A CLASSIFIED LABOR FORCE WHICH WILL LIVE AND FIGHT FOR THEIR *BENEVOLENT* RULERS.

GOLLY! THAT'S WHAT *PAPA* SAYS!

WHA...?!! THEY'VE GOT CHICKS HERE, TOO, CAP! IF I BOP THESE CLODS NOW, IT'D BE EMBARR-ASSING.

OH, I WON'T MIND IF YOU BEAT THEM! I BEAT INFERIORS ALMOST EVERY DAY!

YOU DO, EH?

BUT, THEN, I'M ONE OF THE ELITE! I'M CHEER CHADWICK! MY PAPA'S A "BIGGIE" IN THE NEW SOCIETY!

I WOULDN'T ADVISE IT, MISS. WE'D HAVE TO UNDO ALL YOU'VE BEEN TAUGHT.

I CAN BEAT YOU TWO IF I LIKE!

IS THAT SO?!

SUDDENLY, A PLATOON OF SOLDIERS POURS INTO THE LAB.

STAND CLEAR OF THOSE INTRUDERS, MISS CHADWICK!

THEY'RE OUTSIDERS! ENEMIES OF OUR STATE!

YOU CAN'T GIVE ME ANY ORDERS! MY PAPA PAYS YOUR SALARIES... YOU WORK FOR US!

DO AS THEY SAY, MISS. THIS COULD GET STICKY.

"FATAL" IS THE WORD!

PLEASE, MISS CHADWICK..... WE'VE GOT ENOUGH MEN TO CLEAN THIS UP QUICKLY .....IF YOU'D ONLY.....

OH, SHUT UP, STUPID! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THESE MEN INTRIGUE ME? CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THEY'RE FUN?

THE ELITE DECIDES WHO GETS SHOT IN THIS PLACE-- AND WE DON'T TAKE SASS FROM THE HIRED HELP!

WHAP!

UK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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LIKE **ROYALTY** OF OLD, CHEER CHADWICK HAUGHTILY BRUSHES ASIDE THE MENACING SOLDIERY AND **DEFUSES** THE SITUATION.

GO AND GUARD AN EXIT OR SOMETHING, FELLAS! IT SEEMS WE'RE **GUESTS** OF THE LADY!

STAND ASIDE, DUM-DUM. THIS "LOW-BORN" IS **COMIN' THROUGH!**

LEAVE, I SAID... **LEAVE!**

TRUE TO THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE **NEW-ELITE** THE SOLDIERS WITHDRAW. CAP AND THE FALCON THEN **FOLLOW** THE GIRL.....FOR, AT HER SIDE, THEY NOW HAVE THE FREEDOM TO **INSPECT** THE HIDDEN INSTALLATION.

WHO'D HAVE **SUSPECTED** THAT ALL **THIS** WAS GOING ON BENEATH THE WESTERN BADLANDS?

ELEVATOR

A "NEW AMERICA" GROWING **INSIDE** THE OLD. THE BILLS MUST BE **ENORMOUS.**

SO....THERE ARE **MANY** LEVELS IN THIS OPERATION. I ASSUME THAT THE ELITE OCCUPIES THE **TOP** FLOOR.

YOU ASSUME **RIGHT,** MISTER MASK! THE ELITE DEMANDS AND **GETS** THE **BEST** VIEW FROM THE MOUNTAIN!

IT'S A **GREAT** SET-UP... FOR THE **ELITE.**

POPPA SAYS THAT PEOPLE **LIKE** THINGS THIS WAY, EVERYBODY IS HAPPY.... **IN THEIR PLACE.**

POPPA SAYS THIS IS **TRUE** ORDER, AND POPPA **KNOWS.** ALL THESE LEVELS REFLECT OUR SOCIETY... THOSE AT THE BOTTOM...TO THOSE AT THE **TOP.**

ONE

MILITARY TACTICAL TROOP

TWO

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FORCE

WHITE COLLAR FORCE

PAPPA KNOWS BEST, EH? IT'S ALL SO **SIMPLE,** ISN'T IT?

IT'S **BEAUTIFUL,** FELLAS. WE'RE GOING TO LEVEL FIVE, THAT'S WHERE MY **SURPRISE** IS.

FINE! THAT'S WHAT WE CAME HERE TO SEE....THE **SURPRISE!**

I **HOPE** IT'S THE RIGHT ONE.

THE **"BIG DADDY" MAD BOMB!** AN ELITE DEVICE WHICH IS DESIGNED FOR **SONIC** INVASION OF THE MIND. IF **"BIG-DADDY"** ACTIVATES THE THING, IT CAN RENDER OUR ENTIRE POPULATION OPEN TO A **"TAKE-OVER"!**

IF "BIG DADDY" IS **HERE,** THIS ARROGANT CHILD MAY **LEAD** US TO IT!

THE ELEVATOR **STOPS** AT LEVEL FIVE--AND AS THE DOOR SLIDES OPEN, IT REVEALS...

SO **THIS** IS YOUR SURPRISE!

IT **ISN'T** "BIG DADDY", BLAST IT! BUT..... I MUST ADMIT THAT IT'S A "**SHOCKER**"!

WELL, WELL, WELL. **THE FACE OF THE FUTURE!** WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT IF THEY **SAW** IT?

THERE! THAT'S WHAT THINGS WILL BE LIKE **WHEN POPPA RULES THE WORLD!**

MEANWHILE, IN THE BARREN WASTELANDS **OUTSIDE** THE HIDDEN CITY, SQUADRONS OF SEARCH PLANES COMB THE AREA FOR ANY SIGN OF CAP AND THE FALCON.

BLUE LEADER TO BLUE DEVILS.....WRAP IT UP! **WRAP IT UP!** IT'S A **NEGATIVE** RUN!

COULDN'T SPOT A THING, BLUE LEADER,

YET, THEY **WERE** HERE, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON WERE IN THIS **VERY** AREA .....BEFORE THEY **BROKE OFF** COMMUNICATION.

DISCOURAGED BY THE **FRUITLESS** SEARCH, THE FLIGHT COMMANDER REPORTS HIS FINDINGS.....

.....THAT'S **ALL** WE'VE SEEN, "BASE 1". HORNED TOADS AND SMILIN' GOPHERS.

.....**THAT'S** THE STORY.

AT **"BASE 1"**...

YOU **HEARD** HIM, GENERAL. IT'S ANOTHER **BAD** DAY OVER THE BADLANDS.

WELL, I DON'T BUY IT, I TELL YOU. **I DON'T BUY IT!**

IT MAKES **SENSE**, SIR. THEY **MUST** HAVE VANISHED LIKE OUR PREVIOUS AGENTS. THEY WERE **OVERPOWERED**, ABDUCTED AND CARTED OFF WITH THEIR VEHICLE TO SOME **UN-KNOWN** PLACE.

IT MAKES **NO SENSE**.

WHERE ARE THE TRACKS? IT WOULD TAKE A **SIZABLE** FORCE TO OVERPOWER TWO SUPER-HEROES. WHERE ARE THE TRACKS OF SUCH A FORCE? IF THEY LEFT THIS AREA..... THEY'D HAVE LEFT **TRACKS**.

THIS AREA HAS BEEN W!PED **CLEAN** OF TRACKS!

THEY'RE STILL HERE, I TELL YOU! THERE'S AN **ENEMY** COMMANDER AND HIS TROOPS... WATCHING US... WAITING FOR US... **RIGHT HERE!**

THEN, WE'LL **FIND** THEM, SIR. WE'LL USE THE NEW **"HOUND-DOG"!**

IT WAS JUST SENT TO US BY ORDNANCE. IT'S EQUIPPED WITH A SORT OF **"GROUND-SONAR"!** IF ANYTHING'S HIDDEN HERE, "HOUND-DOG" WILL **FLUSH** IT OUT.

THE "HOUND-DOG" IS **QUICKLY** PUT TO WORK. IT RISES ON AIR JETS AND SHOOTS OUT METAL SENSORS, **PROBING** THE GROUND WITH ELECTRONIC IMPULSES, WHICH SEND BACK **"ECHO IMAGES"** OF WHAT LIES BENEATH THE ARID DESERT FLOOR.

GET **STARTED**, PILOT! AND DO A **THOROUGH** JOB.

YES, SIR!

LIKE EVERY MEMBER OF HIS STRIKE FORCE, THE PILOT IS **AWARE** OF THE STAKES INVOLVED--THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS OFTEN HINGE ON **ONE** SINGLE MISSION.

BZZZZZZZZZ

THAT'S THE DAMNEDEST, **UGLIEST** CONTRAPTION I'VE **EVER** SEEN! BUT, IF IT CAN FIND THE HIDDEN ENEMY, I'M GONNA **GOLD PLATE** THE THING!!

SHORT OF **DIGGING UP** THESE BADLANDS, IT'S OUR **LAST** HOPE, GENERAL!

OUR **BEST** TECHNICIANS HAVE WORKED THEIR TAILS OFF TO COME UP WITH "HOUND-DOG". THEY SAY IT'S **TEN** TIMES MORE SENSITIVE THAN RADAR.

IF THE ENEMY HAS A **DEFENSE** AGAINST PROBES, IT MAY **NOT** BE ENOUGH TO FOOL "HOUND-DOG"!

AND **THAT'S** WHEN THEY'LL HAVE TO RECKON WITH GENERAL **ARGYLE FIST**!

AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE **BELOW** THE SURFACE OF THE BADLANDS.

FREEDOM IS A LIE! A LIE!!

LITTLE PEOPLE CAN'T RUN A BIG WORLD!

GET THAT!

THIS LOOKS LIKE A BRAIN-WASHING SESSION!

THE ELITE CAN RUN THE WORLD! THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF US! THEY CAN HELP US!

GUIDE US! TELL US WHAT TO DO! TELL US!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

LET'S RAP WITH CAP

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SIXTH FLOOR
575 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022
N. Y.

Dear Bullpen,

I have been reading CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON for two short years now, and I believe that it's high time I should tell you guys how much I appreciate your fine magazine.

In a day when new comic titles come out in scores, I must say that this one contains the quality, the action-packed adventure, and the overall superb writing and art that is typical of the Great American Comic Magazine. Your handling of Captain America's complex personality shows great talent, not to mention creativity which is unexcelled by rival comic groups.

Congratulations!

William Pearson III
Rt. #2, Box 177
McDonough, GA 30253

We've always considered Cap to be one of our greatest concerns, Bill, as you can readily see by the fact that the Red, White, and Blue Avenger has been *around* for so long—born in the frantic forties, a comeback in the fear-fraught fifties, and a rapacious reappearance in the earth-shattering sixties which lasted until today— the startling seventies. And no super-hero who isn't the best can last a thirty year stretch.

Time will tell, and now that the man who created Cap (Jack "King" Kirby, of course) is back at the reins once more... why, it seems like just *yesterday* that Steve Rogers first donned his star-spangled suit to battle the Fuhrer!

(O.K., Irv, knock it off! We all know it wasn't *really* yesterday!)

And if you thought *yesterday* was great, wait'll you see tomorrow! The best is yet to come!

Dear Bullpen,

This is a note of thanks to Frank Robbins for taking the Captain through some rough times, and for riding out some even rougher times...the return of the King. Sure I'm glad, like everyone else, that Jack is returning to his son; still, it must be hard on Frank to have to leave with only words of the King in the air.

This issue, number 192, was a good segue piece with a couple of really nice points. I really enjoyed the part when the Cap landed the 747—fun! It was neat to see Cap walk down the street of NYC with all the other costumed folks—none really noticing that man in Red, White, and Blue.

Bob Robinson
650 South 17th
Lincoln, NB 63503

The Bullpen thanks you, and Frank thanks you. Yours is but one of the many farewell letters Frank received for Cap, and both he and the rest of the batty crew appreciate them.

As for those "other costumed folks" on the streets of New York City—if *you* lived in the Big Apple, you'd soon notice those aren't costumes— they're just the everyday accouterments of the weirdos who inhabit the Fifty-First State— many of whom happen to be Bullpenners!

Dear Marv, Frank, D. Bruce, and Stan,

Issue #192 of CAPTAIN AMERICA obviously, was meant as simply a fill-in 'till the "King" takes charge next issue. Marv Wolfman's script was nonetheless satisfying. It was kind of

nostalgic when you think about it. Doctor Faustus was a by-product of the Lee - Kirby days on Captain America. Most of the hoods reeked with the look of anachronisms. Jack K. always did have a flair for depicting the underworld. The ending was wrapped up just right. That was very astute of Cap, Marv too, in the way he tricked the hoods by giving that special police emergency number while he was in the plane. One thing I hope Kirby is in apperception of is Cap's new super strength. Don't forget that.

This ish will be Frank Robbins' last in Cap. During his stay, and under his artistic leadership, our hero has had an eccentric look, yet still quite interesting and full of excitement. Really, I've enjoyed his art for the most part and I'm anticipating more of his rendition of Cap in the INVADERS. D.Bruce Berry's inks are far more legible at Marvel than they were at your competition. Looks like he has fallen prey to that most wonderful of exotic maladies, the unstoppable Marvel Magic. That's going around a lot these days, you know, and I'm yet to see a cure for it.

Before closing, I want to wish Jack a tout à fait new start, and may his second golden reign outshine his first. Also, get Stan to script Cap. Taking nothing away from J.K., but no one can write like "THE MAN." Excelsior.

Jack Frost
Route 3, Box 176-C
West Monroe, LA 71291

Well, Jack, Marv and Frank specifically planned that issue as a tribute to the old Kirby/Lee stories of the type that we just reprinted in last summer's GIANT-SIZE CAPTAIN AMERICA, and they're glad you picked up on it.

As for getting that golden team together once more, we're afraid that the rigors of supervising the publishing end of the business occupy most of Old Smiley's time. But we can always *hope*, can't we?

Dear Marv,

In regards to CAPTAIN AMERICA #192 and The Falcon, I came across the statement Doctor Faustus made to the passengers on the plane—that New York City was going bankrupt. I'm really pleased that in your comics you bring up some of

the problems facing America today. I feel that you're helping to inform the younger readers of the current issues that face our American society.

Wendy Mayer
Box 50, Stambaugh Hall
Ada, OH 45810

Marvel has always managerl to examine facets of American society and of the world at large, whether the problem is pollution, the Watergate affair, or just plain old lack of brotherhood. Our super-heroes don't live in a world all their own, Wendy. They live in the world occupied by you and we, and share all our problems and all our joys. And that's what Marvel is all about.

Comprende?

Dear Bullpen,

I thoroughly enjoyed Cap #191. Not only did it begin to tie up the Falcon double-identity problem but it was also just plain fun! The balance between the action and seriousness (i.e. both plot and character development) was done nicely. I'm glad to see it all ending. The Skull-Falcon bit was good while it lasted but enough is enough.

Frank did a great artistic job this issue. At first I didn't like his style but, as you said, he kind of grows on you. Stilty never looked better (except maybe on the magnificent cover) and Cap and Falc looked together!

On the writing side Mr. Mantlo really did a fine job. What is he? Some kind of workhorse? Practically every book I pick up today is written by him!

BRING BACK KULL!!

Garret Leffler
225 Dellwood Road
Buffalo, NY 14226

Boisterous Bill's problem seems to be that aside from the series he normally writes, he's also hard at work (as you may already know from reading some of our other lettercols) scripting a fill-in inventory story for every Marvel title. It just so happens that a number of them have been used in the same months, thus creating the impression of a backbreaking workload. See?

And as for Kull, hold onto your socks! He's a'comin', so just keep watchin', y'hear?

Dear Marvel,

HAPPINESS IS: Reading CAPTAIN AMERICA and finding out his creator is back.

LONG LIVE THE KING!!!

ROF David Baum
1709 N. 41 Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33021

HAPPINESS IS: Reading fan letters which wish us good luck in the future.

SADNESS IS: Approaching the end of a lettercolumn.

HAPPINESS IS: Knowing there'll be another one next month!

MARVEL VALUE STAMP

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IT'S THE SAME OLD PHONY PACKAGE! THE "DOUBLE-TALK" SLOGANS. THE CORRUPTED FLAG. THE IRON-JAWED, LOUD-MOUTHED LEADER!

WHO IS THIS NEW HITLER? I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.

OH, HE ISN'T REAL. HE'S JUST A COMPOSITE FACE, PUT TOGETHER BY A COMPUTER.

WE MUST BEWARE OF THE FREEDOM FREAKS!

IF THIS LEADER DOESN'T EXIST, THEN THE ELITE RUNS THE WHOLE SHOW. THEY OFFER THESE FOLLOWERS AN IMAGE, WHILE THEY WIELD THE POWER!

THE FREEDOM FREAKS CAN DESTROY THE LOVE BETWEEN US. BUT OUR LOVE IS STRONG. OUR LOVE CAN DESTROY THE FREEDOM FREAKS.

WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT?

THE MOB JUST EATS THIS UP! THEY CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOVE MACHINE!

AT THAT MOMENT, AN OPENING APPEARS BENEATH THE SCREEN, AND THE "LOVE MACHINE" RISES INTO VIEW.

IT'S THE LOVE MACHINE! IT GIVES US ORDER. IT GIVES US SECURITY. IT GIVES US HARMONY!

FREEDOM FREAK

I SHOW YOU MY LOVE!! NOW SHOW ME YOUR GRATITUDE!

KILL THE FREEDOM FREAK!

FREEDOM FREAKS ARE A MENACE!

FREEDOM FREAKS ROCK THE BOAT!!

KILL! KILL!

METAL BARS APPEAR IN THE HANDS OF THE ASSEMBLAGE, AND, AS ANGER FLARES INTO VIOLENCE, THE HANGING EFFIGY IS ATTACKED WITH SAVAGE VEHEMENCE.

WAK!

BAK!!

EMOTIONS **SUPPRESS** ALL REASON! THE EFFIGY BECOMES A LIVING **ENEMY**, AND IS TORN TO SHREDS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!! THE MOB IS **HAPPY** WITH ITS WORK.

THE RIOTERS SHOUT TO THE IMAGE ON THE SCREEN. IT IS AS **REAL** TO THEM AS THE EFFIGY THEY'VE **SACRIFICED** TO THE NEW SOCIETY.

YOUR ENEMY IS **OUR** ENEMY! WHEN **YOUR** ENEMY DIES..... **OUR** ENEMY DIES!

THIS IS WONDERFUL! THIS IS GLORIOUS! IN THE NAME OF THE ELITE, I DECLARE THIS A DAY OF JOY!

NO ONE SHALL LABOR ON THIS DAY! ALL PERSONNEL ARE INVITED TO THE ARENA!! THE TEAMS ARE READY TO ENTERTAIN YOU.

BLESS YOU, CHIEF!

BLESS THE ELITE!

OUR LOVE IS STRONG!

MEANWHILE... ***WATCHING*** *THE DISPLAY.....*

WE'VE SEEN **ENOUGH** OF THIS. WE'RE **NOT** IMPRESSED.

OH, **REALLY**? WHAT **WOULD** IMPRESS YOU?

TELL HER, CAP!

WE WANT TO KNOW IF THE KINGSIZE "**MAD-BOMB**" IS STORED HERE! IT CAN SEND OUT WAVES OF **MADNESS** THAT COULD **WRECK** THE UNITED STATES!

IF IT'S ACTIVATED, **MILLIONS** OF PEOPLE MAY BE-COME **MENTALLY DISABLED!**

...SO?

WHY SHOULD THAT CONCERN **ME**? POPPA SAYS THE ELITE MUST THINK OF ITS **OWN** WELFARE! ALL OTHERS ARE JUST **RABBLE!**

WE **CAN'T** BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE AS SELFISH AND **RUTHLESS** AS YOUR POPPA. AFTER ALL, YOU DID COME TO OUR **AID**, DIDN'T YOU?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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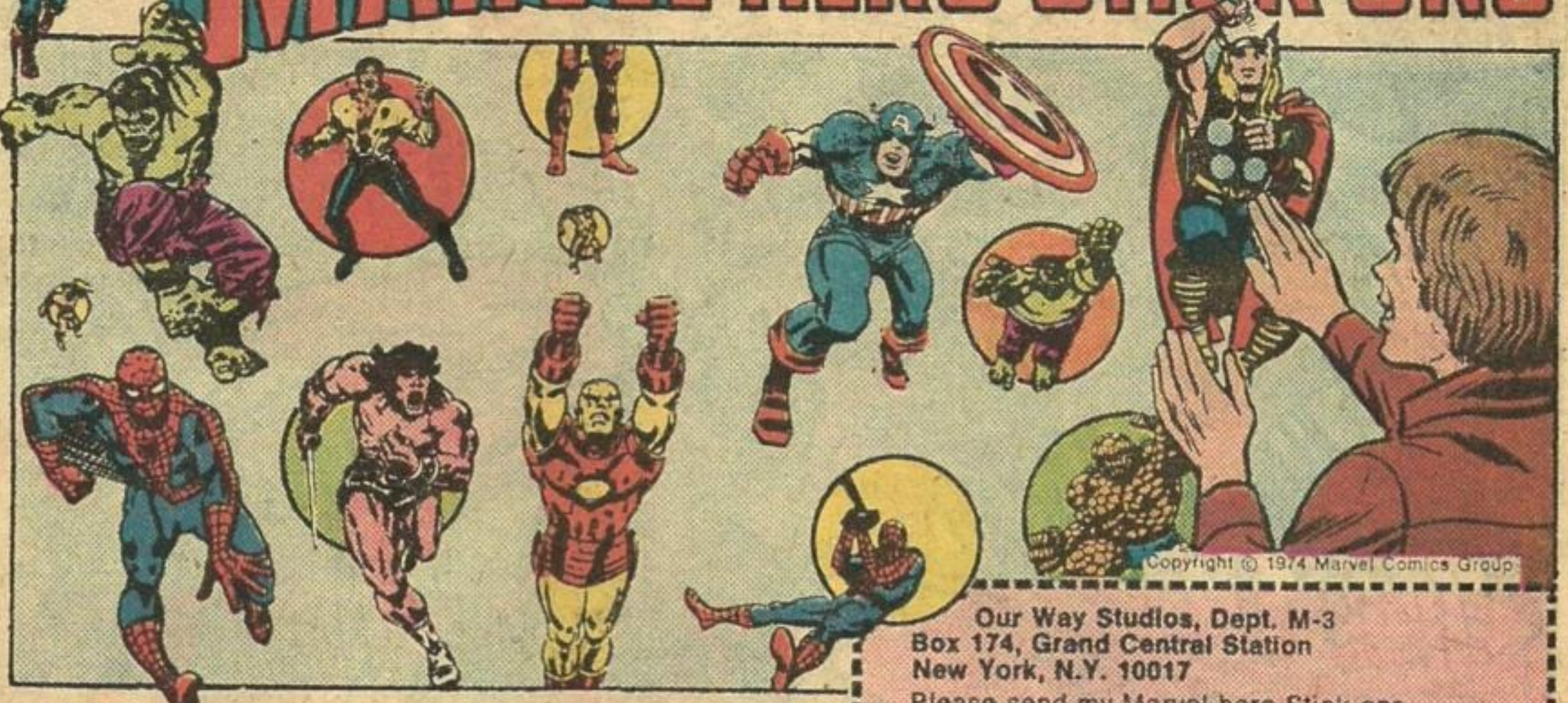

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SUDDENLY, A LARGE AND PONDEROUS SHADOW FALLS UPON THE TRIO, CAP AND THE FALCON ARE GIVEN NO TIME TO AVOID WHAT FOLLOWS!!

SO THESE ARE THE NEW ROOKIES!!

WUMP!

BAM!

DON'T DAMAGE THEM! YOU'LL RUIN THEIR VALUE!

WAM!

GET UP, ROOKIE! LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!

GREAT DAY! ANOTHER MONSTER! AND THIS ONE IS AN AGRESSIVE FEMALE!

WHERE WOMEN ARE CONCERNED, I'D RATHER TALK THINGS OUT..WILL YOU LISTEN?

HE'S ON HIS FEET AND FULL OF FIGHT! THIS ONE HAS SPUNK!

BEFORE CAP CAN **MOVE**, HOWEVER, HIS GIANT ADVERSARY THRUSTS FORWARD A GLOVED HAND....EXPOSING A SERIES OF **MIRRORS** IN ITS PALM.

SURPRISE IS THE NAME OF **THIS** GAME, DUDE!

I GOT NO TIME FOR **TALKIN'**.

A THOUSAND **FLASH BULBS** SEEM TO GO OFF BEFORE CAP'S EYES.... HIS VISION IS **INSTANTLY** IMPAIRED!

UGH.... **CAN'T** SEE....!

AND AN **INSTANT** LATER, CAP IS STRUCK **HARD** BY A **FIFTY POUND** METAL GLOVE!! HE GOES DOWN BEFORE THIS **TERRIBLE** FORCE.

KRASH!

ANOTHER **CHALLENGER** EH?

I'M AS TRICKY AS **YOU** ARE, SISTER!

THEN... THE FALCON SWOOPS QUICKLY TO **IMMOBILIZE** THIS POWERFUL OPPONENT!

YOU WON'T TAG ME **THAT** EASILY!

POW!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

A KALEIDOSCOPE OF KINETIC KIBITZING AND KOOKY KOMMENTARY KENNED TO KINDLE YOUR KARMA!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey group, let's talk about Cons. Have you noticed how they've been proliferating? (Marv, tell Irv Forbush to relax— it isn't a naughty word!) It seems that every time you turn around someone is having a Comicbook Fan Convention somewhere— and nothing could make us happier. It's about time this country really got into culture! And now, here's an earth-shaking item for our "Don't Say I Didn't Warn Ya" department. For all of you who'll be in the Florida area the middle of this month (December), Yours Truly will be a guest of honor at the big, new Miami Con to be held at the Americana Hotel in Miami Beach from December 17th through the following weekend. I'll also be on hand for the Creation Con at New York's Commodore Hotel on January 3rd— so all non-believers have time to get out of town! But, the biggest kick of all, of course, will be the second annual Mighty Marvel Con which will be held at the selfsame Commodore Hotel here in Fun City during Easter Week! Okay— that's it! Adjust your calendars accordingly and set your timetables— you know how I hate talking to an empty auditorium. (Especially when it answers back!)

And now, a tip to all you frantic ones who complain about the difficulty of finding your favorite Marvel mags on sale when you want 'em. If you miss out on some of our minor masterpieces because your dealer just doesn't receive enough copies to meet the demand, here's what to do. Ask your proud purveyor of Marvel magic for the name of the **wholesaler** from whom he buys his magazines. Then, call or write that selfsame wholesaler, demanding that he supply more copies of Marvel Comics to your long-suffering dealer. Yep, your letters and phone calls will let 'em hear the thundrous voices of Marveldom Assembled, as peace and contentment settle once more o'er the ranks of comicbookdom throughout our fair land!

And now, it's back to the ol' typewriter. With ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS comfortably nestled upon the best-seller lists, and SON OF ORIGINS rapidly racing to overtake it, it's time to start work on the third book in our never-ending collectors' series— and wait'll you hear what that one's gonna be called. But— I've gotta save something for next time, so— till we meet again, remember— life can be a breeze, if you take it "cum grano salis"!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! As winter approacheth, and the snows do fall 'pon the trampled earth, mighty-thewed beasts of burden burrow into the deepest, dank caves ready for the long hibernation ahead. Fortunately for you, Faithful One, the burdened beasts of your batty bullpen can barely take the time for a quick snooze,let alone a five-month shut-eye, which is our sneaky way of telling you that Mighty Marvel is on the move again! We'll get into some of our new projects in a paragraph or three, but let us tell ya about a couple of more physical moves—namely, cross-country and county. Take Riotous RICH BUCKLER, the FANTASTIC FOUR's penciller supreme, for one. Not only has Rich taken to work on a whole slew of our cavortin' covers, but he's also moved back to the Big Apple just to be closer to the home of our boisterous blockbusters! And according to Newton's law—every action requires an opposite reaction, so TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA has packed his bags and typing paper and made his long trek back to the wilds of Cleveland, where he will pen the awesome adventures of everyone's favorite cycle-star, the GHOST RIDER! And guess who's taking the biggest move of 'em all? Right on the first try—Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART, who's moved from being a bashful bachelor to the mirthful munificence of married life. We'd congratulate you, Steve, but the **real** congrats go to MARIE-THERESE BEACH, for not only putting up with your complete Marvel Collection, but all those blamed AVENGERS who keep popping in to proofread your paperwork.

ITEM! As for some of those other moves we sorta hinted at a moment ago, well, this is the big month for a couple of dutiful debuts. Let's roll out the red carpet and give a great big Marvel welcome to the long-demanded arrival of The Guardians Of The Galaxy, appearing in each and every issue of MARVEL PRESENTS. STEVE (Baby) GERBER and Mighty AL MILGROM pulled out all the stops with this galaxy-busting premiere story. So, join Starhawk and company for a voyage Star Trek never even dreamed of taking. And, while you're rocketing off with the Guardians, it wouldn't hurt to take a slight detour earthward for a peek behind the pages of MARVEL CHILLERS, where a certain wondrous Were-woman named Tigra is making her soul-shattering debut. We don't want to say that even our overworked mailmen had to finally give in, but your liltin' letters praising Tigra's appearances in GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF and MONSTERS UNLEASHED are still crowding us out of our under-sized offices.

ITEM! And while we're introducing new artists to your beleaguered Bullpen, let's say hey to Fightin' FRANK THORNE, whose radiant renderings of a certain She-Devil with a sword will be popping out the bleary eyes of more than one love-struck Marvelite. Take a peek behind the pages of MARVEL FEATURE starring Red Sonja and see for yourself. And, while we're mentioning one barbarian, it only stands to reason to mention a few more. If you haven't seen it yet, check out the pages of CONAN, where the epic tale of the beautiful Bêlit has begun. ROBERT E. HOWARD fans have been clamoring for this classic story for years, and now it's here—as only Mighty Marvel can present it. Big JOHN BUSCEMA and Socko STEVE GAN handle the art! And lastly, if ya promise not to tell anyone, we'll let you in on a scintillating secret. In just a few short months we'll be wingin' at you a third REH hero that you just may have heard of. What was it now—? Oh yeah—the guy's name is KULL THE DESTROYER, and the Bullpenner penning his tales will be none other than Rascally ROY THOMAS, who also scripts the other two battlers above. Which just may explain why our Editor Emeritus has taken to carrying his own broadsword strapped to his hip.

ITEM! We've always heard that two's company and three's a crowd, but this is getting ridiculous. If you've been following the frantic adventures of the FANTASTIC FOUR, THE AVENGERS, THE INHUMANS, and THE SONS OF THE TIGER, you just may be familiar with the name Georgeous GEORGE PEREZ. Y'see, unlike most artists who pop a mountainful of Exedrins just thinking about drawing our group strips, George seems to thrive on them, relishing each and every panel, and placing as many team members as he can all over the place. We don't know about you, George, but we're sure of one thing—George? Will someone wake up George, please?

WE'RE NUMBER ONE

WHO IS HE?

Keep watchin', Marvelite, the answer is forthcoming.

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YOU HAVE THIS THING, TIGER, AND I **HATE** IT. EVERY TIME THERE'S TROUBLE, YOU **DISAPPEAR.**

RELAX, M.J., ALL I WANT TO DO IS GET SOME MILK TO HAVE WITH THESE **HOSTESS CUP CAKES.**

SURE, PETER, **ANYTHING** TO AVOID REALITY, BUT AT LEAST THIS TIME, YOU LEFT ME WITH A REALLY DELICIOUS SNACK. DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE... CHOCOLATY ICING... CREAMY FILLING.

I HATE HAVING MARY JANE THINK I'M A **COWARD,** BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY I CAN SLIP INTO MY SPIDER-MAN ROLE. AND ONLY **SPIDEY** CAN HANDLE... **MAN MOUNTAIN MARKO!**

DON'T LOOK NOW, MARKO, BUT THE MOUNTAIN JUST BECAME A MOLEHILL.

WEBHEAD, WE DON'T **UNDERSTAND** YOU, BUT WE SURE APPRECIATE THE HELP!

THANKS, GUYS. MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT A QUART OF GRADE-A TO DELIVER.

SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG, M.J., BUT I-ER-- GOT A LITTLE BIT **DISTRACTED.**

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ARE YOU UP TO DOING THE JOB?

UNABLE TO FACE HER TAUNTS, THE FALCON SWIFTLY CLOSES IN!!

SINCE YOU ASKED FOR IT, I CAN DO THE JOB!

THEN DO IT!

COOL EYES WATCH THE FALCON SWIFTLY CLOSE IN, TWO BEEFY ARMS SNAP TO THE FEMALE'S HELMET AND BRING IT DOWN UPON THE FALCON'S HEAD!

YOU AMATEUR! I TOLD YOU DUM-DUMS THE NAME OF THE GAME!

KRAK!

THE TEAM CAN'T USE THESE TWO, MISS CHADWICK!! THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND A SPORT IN WHICH FAIR PLAY IS OUTLAWED!

HMMPH!

THEY'RE NOT KILLERS, MISS CHADWICK. THEY'LL NEVER MAKE THE TEAM.... MUCH LESS SURVIVE THE ARENA. YOU'VE BROUGHT ME THE WRONG MEN.

NO! I'VE SEEN THEM FIGHT THE SOLDIERS. THESE MEN ARE GOOD!

BUT, YOU **DON'T** UNDERSTAND, MISS CHADWICK. THEY **WOULDN'T** LAST A SECOND! TO SEND THEM INTO ACTION WOULD BE A **WASTE** OF TIME AND PEOPLE.

WE'VE **GOT** TIME AND PEOPLE TO WASTE! THAT, **TOO**, IS THE NAME OF THE GAME..... ISN'T IT, **TINKER-BELLE**?

I **NEVER** DISOBEY THE ELITE! THESE CHARMERS WILL BE **READY** FOR THE GAME AT STARTING TIME!

THAT WOULD BE JUST FINE! I'M **CERTAIN** THAT THEY'LL PUT ON A GOOD SHOW!

YEAH, FOR ABOUT A SECOND, OR, MAYBE, **TWO**, THAT'S ALL THE TIME THEY'LL HAVE..... BEFORE THEY'RE **ZAPPED**!

TAKE THEM AWAY. I'VE GOT TO CALL MY **POPPA.**

WHEN CHEER CHADWICK **CONTACTS** HER FATHER.....

YES, POPPA, I HEARD THEM CLEARLY. THESE TWO MASKED MEN ASKED ME ABOUT THE **"MAD-BOMB"!**

IT DOESN'T MATTER. THESE AGENTS WILL SOON BE... **DEAD.**

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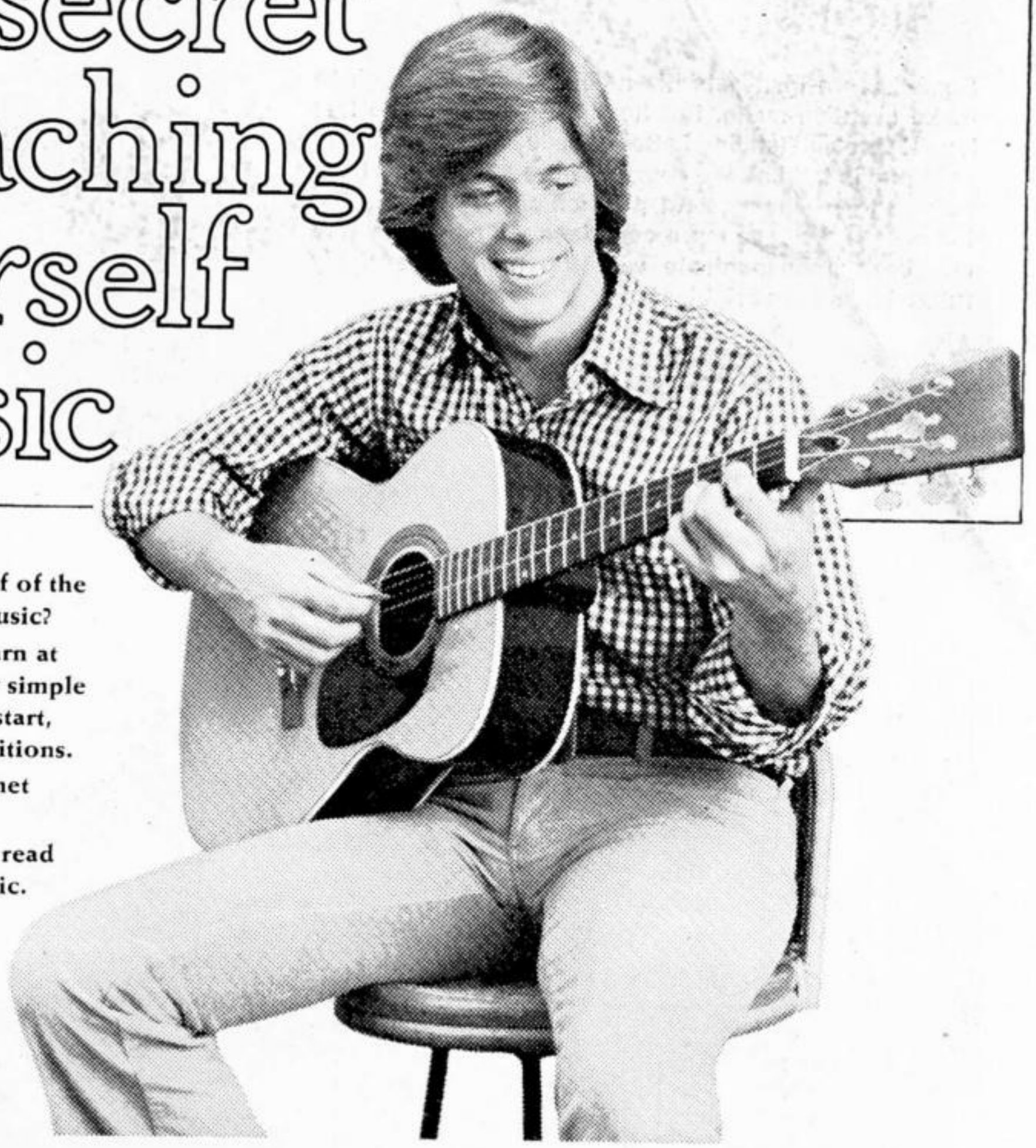

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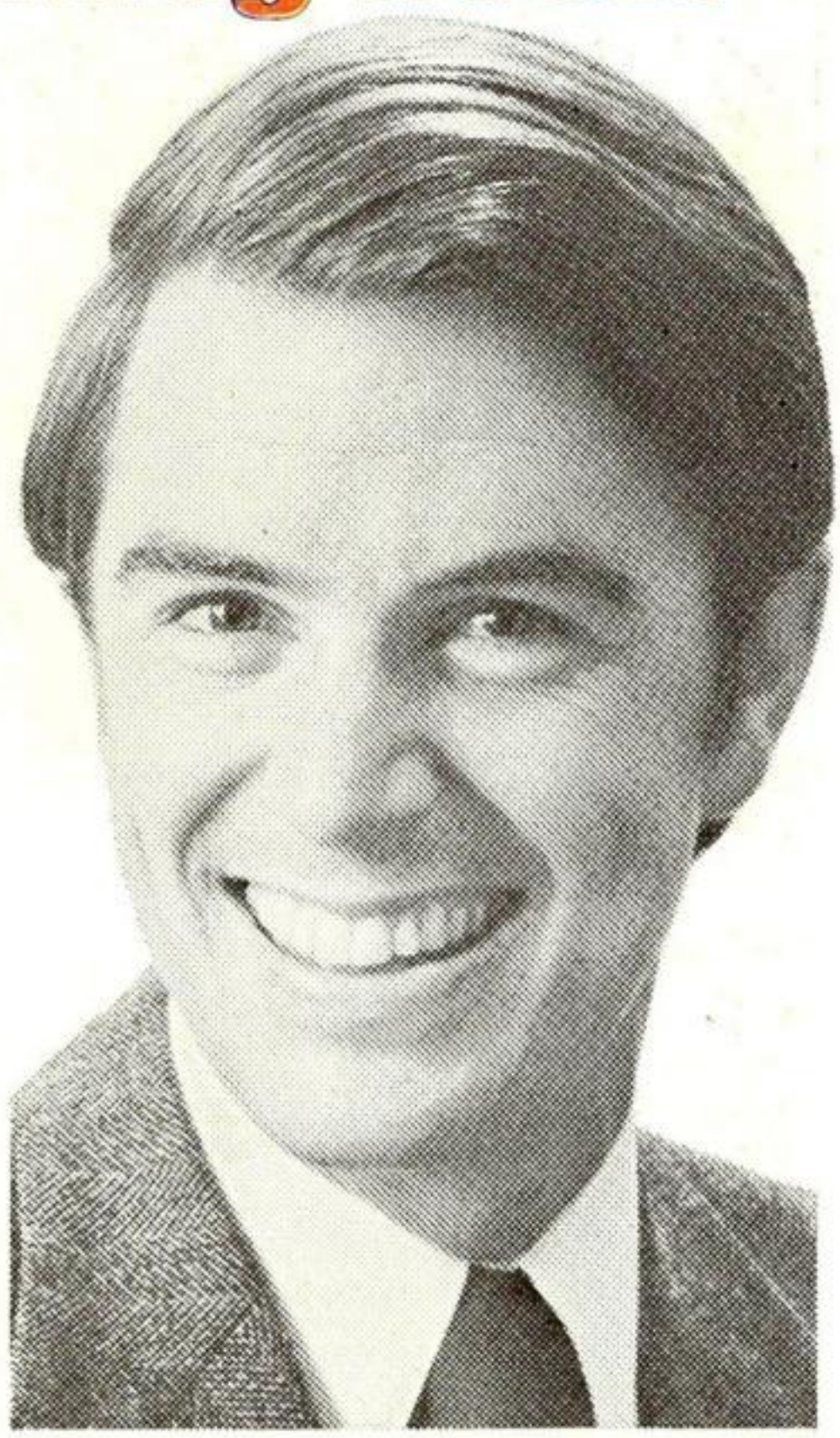

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